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LETTER DATED 31 MARCH 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF FRANCE AND THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Joint Statement by the President of the French Republic and the President of the Russian Federation on Nagorny Karabakh, of 16 March 1993 (see annex in French and Russian).

We should be grateful if you would be so kind as to have the text of this letter and its annex distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jean-Bernard MERIMEE
Permanent Representative of France
to the United Nations

(Signed) Yuli M. VORONTSOV
Permanent Representative of the
Russian Federation to the United Nations

Annex

Joint French-Russian Statement on Nagorny Karabakh

(16 March 1993)

The French Republic and the Russian Federation are continuing their efforts to halt as speedily as possible the bloody conflict in Nagorny Karabakh, which has caused great suffering for millions of persons, above all Armenians and Azerbaijanis. The French Republic and the Russian Federation are particularly concerned at the stepped-up military activity and the serious consequences of the conflict for the civilian population.

France and Russia reaffirm their commitment to a policy of peace, respect for human rights and the rights of peoples, dialogue and understanding. The non-use of force for political purposes and the peaceful settlement of disputes must remain the fundamental principles guiding the conduct of democratic States.

The leaders of the parties to the conflict must work out a realistic and responsible approach leading to a political settlement of the conflict, avoid intransigence and the vicious circle of violence, and establish direct contact. France and Russia reaffirm their strong support for settling the conflict within the framework of the Minsk Conference, under the auspices of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), whose preparatory meetings indicate prospects for real progress. Russia and France call upon all States concerned to combine their efforts, to which the experience and potential of the United Nations could be added, if need be, in order to ensure that this Conference can begin as soon as possible.

France and Russia call upon all the parties to the conflict to bring about an immediate de-escalation in the fighting and an effective cease-fire in order to arrive at a settlement of the conflict solely through peaceful means.